

Dear UNA Skiers:

Well there you have it, another winter season in the rearview mirror. Maybe not completely yet, but the Divide Nordic trails are showing the distinct marks of springtime in the Rockies.

As of this writing, trail grooming, road plowing, and hygiene facilities, are scheduled to stop by the middle of this month.

As we look back over the season we have seen big advancements in volunteer involvement. Thanks to all those that have helpful hearts and minds to dedicate their time for the betterment of the Divide Road trails. Your assistance with this endeavor has greatly improved the attendance, monetary donations, and enjoyment of the trails. I cannot name all those that have donated time, physical effort, and materials to this worthwhile undertaking, but we (UNA) know who you are and you have the board's continuing appreciation.

This season's highlights included our first meet-and-greet get together at the Campers Hub. The potluck attracted many of this year's volunteers to socialize and consume multiple calories to store up for burning on the trails.

The wax and stoke party at Montrose Surf and Cycle kicked off the season with a magnificent turn-out. The silent auction, multiple food suppliers, beverages from the local vendors, and the talented ski doctors, joined to make this the best stoke party yet. Well done fellow recreationalists.

These times together have brought several great fundraising ideas to our attention and have initiated such new programs as the Kroger Reward program, and Careasy.org (tax-deductible vehicle donation).

Actual ski related events included the Moonlight ski (60+attendees), ski clinics, women's ski afternoon (17 attendees), and educational nature trivia signs.

Our Capital equipment campaign was successful! Our friends at the Grand Mesa Nordic Council sold us a Skandic snowmobile for grooming which needed a little maintenance and repair but works well and now our volunteer groomers have a machine to use. We also purchased a used roller which also needed some minor repairs but works well for our purposes. There are still a few more pieces of equipment we would like to acquire to help us provide better groomed trails but for now we have what we need. Thank you for your contributions to the capital fund!

As we look forward to the future, the goals in the queue will include getting Forest Service approval for construction of a parking lot, updating/replacing trail grooming equipment, initiating Kid's ski days, and with the help of interested volunteers, ideas to make an attractive area to recreate.

Speaking of a more attractive area, thanks to all the responsible dog owners for cleaning up after your furry friends. Please be good neighbors and help those that don't know how to keep our area fecal-litter-free.

In a few weeks, we will be able to provide the ski season by the numbers: # skiers, # donors, donations, expenditures, volunteer hours, etc. We will post this on our website. Again, thank you for all you do to help us provide this winter recreation experience. Your help is instrumental!

To all have a spectacular Spring/Summer/Fall.

Stay in touch by social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, our website

Respectfully,

*Mark Bowden*

President, Uncompahgre Nordic Association